

## News Release

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### Wisconsin selected to receive \$10 million federal grant to expand focus on student mental health services

*Funding to assist schools in work on priority areas across state*

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction received a federal grant award to aid Wisconsin schools in expanding priority areas in student mental health.

Through a competitive grant process, Wisconsin was one of six states selected to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education earlier this month. The federal grant totals \$10 million over five years and will fund the [DPI's School-based Mental Health Professionals Federal Grant Program](#).

“Almost 60 percent of Wisconsin high school students reported experiencing mental health challenges in the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey,” State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor said. “There must be a continuous effort across our state to expand partnerships and resources to ensure the mental wellness of all students. This grant program will help further our progress in addressing the individual needs of students and will provide further support across the state.”

Funding from the DPI's School-based Mental Health Professionals Federal Grant Program will assist high-need school districts in recruiting and retaining pupil services staff, such as school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists, help reduce high student-to-pupil services ratios, as well as increase graduate training opportunities for those interested in pursuing a school-based mental health profession. The grant program will also seek to increase the diversity within these professions to better reflect the diversity of Wisconsin's student population.

Additional details on the grant program and updated information on its availability to school districts can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/school-based-mental-health-professionals-federal-grant-program>.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2020/wisconsin-schools-mental-health-grant>.